AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled)

25. (New) A method of processing two or more groups of work pieces, comprising the steps of:

providing a work piece location;

positioning a number of clamp devices around the work piece location in order to clamp each of the two or more groups of work pieces at different clamping sites thereon;

providing each clamp device with a lower clamp unit and an upper clamp unit;

providing the lower clamp unit of each clamp device with a pair of lower jaws, at least one of the lower jaws being movable relative to the other of the lower jaws between a clamped position and an unclamped position;

actuating each of the lower clamp units to clamp each of a first group of work pieces by moving at least one of the lower jaws relative to the other of the lower jaws between the clamped and unclamped positions, firstly to receive each of the first group of work pieces, and secondly to clamp each of the first group of work pieces at a first elevation;

providing the upper clamp unit with a pair of upper jaws, at least one of the upper jaws being movable relative to the other of the upper jaws between a clamped position and an unclamped position;

actuating each of the upper clamp units to clamp each of a second group of work pieces by moving at least one of the upper jaws relative to the other of the upper jaws between the clamped and unclamped positions, thirdly to receive each of the second group of work pieces, and fourthly to clamp each of the second group of work pieces at a second elevation, the second elevation being oriented above the first elevation.

26. (New) The method as defined in claim 25, comprising the further step of rendering the upper clamp unit inoperable during the actuation of the lower clamp unit.

27. (New) The method as defined in claim 25, comprising the further step of conducting at least one process operation on each of the first group of work pieces.

28. (New) The method as defined in claim 25, comprising the further step of conducting at least one process operation on each of the second group of work pieces.

29. (New) The method as defined in claim 25, comprising the further step of locating one of the upper jaws and one of the lower jaws between the first and

second elevations.

30. (New) The method as defined in claim 29, comprising the further step of joining together the upper and lower jaws located between the upper and lower elevations.

31. (New) The method as defined in claim 25, comprising the further step of offsetting one of the clamp units at an angle relative to the other of the clamp units on selected ones of said clamp devices.

32. (New) The method as defined in claim 25, comprising the further steps of providing a support frame member adjacent the work piece location, mounting a lower anchor portion on the support frame member and pivotally mounting a first of the lower jaws of the lower clamp unit for movement relative to the lower anchor portion.

33. (New) The method as defined in claim 32, comprising the further step of mounting a second lower jaw to the lower anchor portion.

34. (New) The method as defined in claim 33, comprising the further step of changing the first and second lower jaws to provide each of the first and second lower jaws with different templates for different groups of work pieces.

35. (New) The method as defined in claim 32, comprising the further step

of mounting a first of the upper jaws on the first lower jaw.

36. (New) The method as defined in claim 35, comprising the further steps of mounting an upper anchor portion on the support frame member and pivotally mounting a second of the upper jaws for movement relative to the upper portion.

37. (New) The method as defined in claim 36, comprising the further step of changing the first and second upper jaws to provide each of the first and second lower jaws with different templates for different groups of work pieces.

38. (New) The method as defined in claim 25, wherein the actuating steps include actuating a linear or rotary, hydraulic or pneumatic drive member.

39. (New) The method as defined in claim 38, comprising the further step of providing a controller for controlling the drive member, and operating the controller in:

a first phase to actuate the lower clamp unit between unclamped and clamped positions;

a second phase to actuate the second upper clamp member between the unclamped and inoperative positions; and

a third phase to actuate the upper clamp unit between the unclamped and clamped positions.